

FEMINIST TIMES

A monthly statewide journal of news and issues

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Free

New Drug Reveals Unsuspected Benefits for Postmenopausal Women

by Melissa MacCrae

Encouraging news emerges from the pharmaceutical world for postmenopausal women. According to data presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Evista (raloxifene), a new drug made by Eli Lilly and Co. for the prevention of osteoporosis, also reduced the incidence of breast cancer by more than 50 percent among women participating in ongoing osteoporosis studies.

Reports released in May analyzed 7,705 women involved in a single osteoporosis treatment study and showed a 70 percent reduction in the incidence of newly diagnosed breast cancer, including about 33 months of follow-up. A subsequent report, based on information from 10,553 postmenopausal women (including the same 7,705 women in the previous study) shows a 54 percent reduction in the incidence of newly diagnosed

breast cancers, within a like follow-up term. "We are committed to conducting additional research -- including long-term breast cancer prevention trials and cardiovascular trials -- that will tell us conclusively if Evista can provide multiple, preventive benefits for postmenopausal women," said Dr. August M. Watanabe, Lilly executive vice president, science and technology, and president of Lilly Research Laboratories.

This good news could not have come soon enough for the one-in-eight women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Yet, it is still too soon to predict the outcome of further study on the efficacy of this new drug on the prevention and treatment of newly diagnosed osteoporosis and breast cancer. Further treatment studies become the next rung on a tall ladder of discovery. The Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation trial, to

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Supporter Honored by Women's Health Center

by Ruth Lockhart

The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center honored Phil Worden, an attorney in Northeast Harbor, with the 1998 Mabel Sine Wadsworth Women's Health Achievement Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Maine women.

One of the five original founders of the Mabel Wadsworth Center, Worden has provided *pro bono* legal services to MWWHC for 14 years, including the development of bylaws and IRS application for tax exempt status to drafting legislation on targeted residential picketing and keeping the center current on legal decisions and struggles that have an impact on women's reproductive rights. Sharon Barker, a center co-founder said, "he's been an integral part of the center from its beginning and very instrumental in its development and success. Phil's contributions to women's health and the Mabel Wadsworth Center extend way



beyond his legal expertise and advice," Barker said.

According to Barker, Worden received the award because he exemplifies how feminist men can help. He listens to what is needed, offers helpful advice and assistance, and works behind the scenes to move the women's health agenda forward.

In accepting the award, Worden noted that in the beginning he had doubts about

the success of the venture. "When we founded the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, I was enthusiastic for the project and I made a real contribution to it. But deep in my heart I did not believe it would last," he said. "I've seen enough movements fail that I sometimes find myself getting cynical. I thought the Mabel

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Entities Express Support to Find a Cure for Breast Cancer

by Melissa MacCrae

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death, from all causes, for women between 35 and 54. Seventy-five percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no known risk factors. Every 12 minutes a woman dies from breast cancer.

Despite these sobering statistics, some women with breast cancer can beat the odds by detecting the disease early. Currently, more than 1.7 million breast cancer survivors live in this country; by 2030, that figure is expected to reach 2.8 million.

Still, there is no known cure for advanced breast cancer.

But that ominous reality challenges people from all walks of life to "fund the

fight to find a cure for breast cancer." That slogan has become the clarion call to find the elusive cure for the disease that robs women of their lives.

The U.S. Postal Service on July 29 officially issued the Breast Cancer Research stamp, the first U.S. stamp in history to have its net proceeds above the postage cost earmarked for a research organization. The "semipostal" stamp, which costs 40 cents, will carry a first-class letter at the current 32 percent rate. All proceeds, above the postal cost, will be given to two entities which conduct breast cancer research: 70 percent of those proceeds will be given to the National Institutes of Health, with 30 percent going to the Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness

Month. But breast cancer strikes women every minute of every day. Buying and using the new commemorative stamp as often as possible will help stamp out breast cancer. You or someone you love could be that one woman in eight who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. A couple of coincidences portend the successful sale and use of 200 million stamps, which the Postal Service will print over a two-year period. The eight-cent-per-stamp donation mirrors the statistical incidence of the one woman in eight who will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The stamp, which

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Feminist Pioneer Dies

Minerva Bernardino, a major force behind the founding of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and a pioneer, among Latin American feminists, died Aug. 29 in the Dominican Republic. She was 91.

Bernardino, who was appointed a representative of the Dominican Republic at the United Nations in 1950, was one of only four women to sign the U.N. Charter in 1945. At the charter conference in San Francisco, she insisted that the document include the phrase "to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination against race, sex, condition or creed."

A contemporary of Eleanor Roosevelt, whose passions for human rights she shared, Bernardino joined Roosevelt and three other women who were delegates to the first U.N. General Assembly in 1946 -- Jean McKenzie

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FEMINIST TIMES

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Statement of Purpose

FEMINIST TIMES was created to give attention to the feminist perspective on issues, asking questions that have not been asked; to shine a spotlight on women of achievement in business, politics, education and the arts; and is committed to providing a forum for women to express their view on local and world events -- a viewpoint that is often ignored, overlooked or misconstrued in the mainstream media. Our goal is to ask questions and inspire a dialogue on a diverse range of issues. We hope to challenge our readers to consider new points of view, and we would like to uphold the ideals of the feminist movement -- to reclaim and honor the title "feminist" for women.

Editorial

When any enterprise comes to an end, it seems appropriate to thank the many people that made its existence possible. Although it's been said often enough to become a cliché, it is important to me to thank the one person who, more than anyone, enabled me to commit significant time, energy and talent to creating and producing the *Feminist Times*, my husband, Dean Anderson. He believed in me and my vision from the beginning and supported me so that I could pursue the dream.

Thanks also to my partner, Alice Pratt, who has been my invaluable ally, her presence and support unwavering. We have achieved an awesome decision-making routine; if only we could bottle and sell it!

Lorraine Brown deserves a medal for her constant support and encouragement and for always asking for an extra day (or week!) beyond the deadline. Her pieces were always interesting, funny and timely. Now another journal will benefit from her wit (and our training).

To our editorial board (both living and dead), my heartfelt thanks for the meetings you attended voluntarily to help lead us down a profitable road. Your inspiration and guidance cannot be duplicated.

Thanks to the many people who wrote letters or called to express excitement and gratitude for our endeavor. Many times you provided the fuel to keep my fire burning. It is incredibly gratifying to hear from readers how much the effort and work of creating and putting out a newspaper every month is appreciated.

The writers, advertisers and distributors are too numerous to name personally, but thanks to all of you. Without your unwavering commitment, there would have been no *Feminist Times*.

I began with hope. Hope that informing readers about issues from a feminist perspective would provide a larger context in which to view and judge events. I end with sadness and anticipation. I know that around the next corner will be a feeling of relief and curiosity about what the future may hold.

We began with the desire to be a counterweight to the traditional, mainstream coverage of the news. In my reading and listening to the news I see many questions that are not asked, questions that reveal a feminist perspective of the world, one that includes the assumption of autonomy, equal rights and equal opportunity and bodily integrity for women. It was my hope that the *Feminist Times* would ask those questions.

Beyond that desire was my hope that the *Feminist Times* would be a link in a chain of organizations devoted to women's issues and progressive issues. Organizations like the Maine Women's Lobby, which exists because women's issues and needs are given short shrift in the Maine Legislature when there is no one to speak for them. Or the Maine Women's Fund, which saw a need for seed money to enable women and the organizations that serve them to organize to solve problems unique to women. Or the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom which has been around since the early 1900s and addresses the causes of war and its casualties. And many others.

Thanks to all these organizations and individuals who contributed to the *Feminist Times* and continue to do the important work to advance women's rights.

Women's Work Is Done

I picked up a free paper off a newsstand in Sacramento, Calif., in 1995 that declared itself to be a "woman's issue," and by god, it was, from cover to cover, ads and all, the whole schmear.

For just that one issue, though. It was the once-a-year acknowledgement of what women in the Sacramento area were talking and thinking about, discussing, debating, feeling, questioning, doing, buying, whatever. I read it, cover to cover. Then packed it in my suitcase and brought it back for Jan to read.

That's what we wanted this newspaper to be. Not a yearly token to the issues of women, because women deserve more consideration, but at least a monthly publication, so full of the business and businesses of women our readers would not be able to put it down. Would read it cover to cover and find something within its pages they could agree with, get mad at or laugh at; stories and articles about the doings of Maine women they would not read about in any other newspaper. In Molly Ivins' words (story on the last page), our purpose was to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," and in the process, nudge traditional media to pay attention.

We succeeded at our task, thanks to our many excellent free-lance writers who, because they believed in the philosophy of the *FT*, were compensated at a pittance of their true worth; our wonderful network of dedicated volunteer distributors; our UMaine journalism intern, Jennifer Hersey, who became a regular contributor after her year was up; and to our many faithful subscribers and advertisers.

But no matter the many encouraging and supportive words from our loyal readership, after more than three years, for Jan and me, putting this newspaper together has to be more than a labor of love, more than a volunteer job.

Despite our desire to commit to the frenzy of publishing this newspaper, we refuse to go into colossal personal debt to do it. Jan will have two sons in college in the fall, and though I am retired from the paying newspaper world, I'm not about to become a "bag lady," neither on the streets of Belfast nor at a grocery store.

So, with this last issue, it is a sad day at the *Feminist Times* office.

What's Funny Now?

by Lorraine Brown

PERSONAL TRAINING, DRAPES AND SEX

No! Blessedly this is not a column about Monica Lewinsky, President Clinton or cigars. Our media people, in insisting on telling us, and telling us more than we ever wanted to know, have simply succeeded in revealing themselves in all their arrogant, muddle-headed, unctuous splendor. Yet, still the designated reporters and newscasters continue to force it down our throats, just in case we have missed the point. But of course the American people, by and large, have not missed the point. They have seen and understood that our nation's capitol is owned, run and reported on by a passel of smarmy weasels, who together have succeeded in creating the very situation that they now pretend to decry. The whole sordid, farcical mess causes one to turn with relief to two venerable old white guys:

"Apox on all you scribes. Begone! Out of our presence. Your multitudinous voices and foul words shine with putrescent tomfoolery." Well, Shakespeare would have said it if he'd had the opportunity.

And here's what H.L. Mencken did say: "The essential difficulty here is that journalism, to be intellectually respectable, requires a kind of equipment in its practitioner that is necessarily rare in the world, and

especially rare in a country given over to the superficial. Thus American journalism (like the journalism of any other country) is predominantly paltry and worthless. Its pretensions are enormous, but its achievements are insignificant."

Given that this is most likely the final issue of the *Feminist Times* and, therefore, my last opportunity to regale you with my opinions and concerns, it occurs to me that there's a lot that I've been meaning to tell you. Like so many before me, I believed that our relationship would last forever, so now I have to try to fit it all into this one last column.

Dozens of weird and wonderful characters speak and argue and cackle in the overcrowded rooms of my own mind, and I mistakenly thought I'd be introducing each of them to you over the vastness of our time together.

There's Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who was both brilliant and in debt until the day he died. I often think of Wolfie when I consider my own eternally shaky financial situation. Through him I learned to comfortably link the concepts of genius and bankruptcy. He had great style and verve and I take heart from his advice, "Whomever is the most impertinent has the best chance."

There's my friend Anita, from whom

the title of this column comes. Anita is entering a new era of her life. She's dating for the first time in awhile, and she's doing it all with her own inimitable blend of soaring dreams and down-home pragmatism. When I asked her what she wanted from one particular fellow who apparently has serious ties to a drapery outlet, Anita thought about it for a few moments and then replied earnestly, "Well, he's in great shape, so I want him to be my personal trainer for the next few months. And of course I want sex. And I want drapes."

Now that I'm getting on I listen with glee and increasing admiration to the words of Maggie Kuhn, an activist for more than 70 years and founder of the Gray Panthers. "Speak your mind -- even if your voice shakes. Well-aimed slingshots can topple giants."

There's good old Percy Shelley, not generally known for lightheartedness, but whose thoughts on humor mirror my own.

We look before and after
and pine for what is not
Our sincerest laughter
with some pain is fraught
Our sweetest songs
are those that tell
our saddest thoughts.

And for all of you who get stymied and spluttery when involved in stimulating

conversations with rascals, scalawags and youthful upstarts regarding the nature of the women's movement, and are not quite sure what a feminist is, I thought you'd like to hear from Dame Rebecca West speaking in 1910. "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute."

It was my intention to devote at least a column to each of those wonderful characters. But, what a feat! I've managed to cover all the important subjects -- feminism, sex, poetry, loss, money, activism, humor, old age and the pitiful state of journalism with blissful brevity. I purposefully avoided God, because I know how She riles some of you. Now it's time to say good-bye. Not something I enjoy doing, but there's no point in trying to crowd in much more. You'll just have to trust me as I allow my favorite cat, Garfield the Magnificent, to speak on my behalf, with more simple eloquence and dignified pathos than I could ever muster. "You have meant a lot to me. Not as much as food, but a lot!"

Lorraine Brown is a free-lance writer and performer. She lives in Belfast.

Letters:

Dear Editor,

I'm trying my Netscape-sending ability, just to say how much I have enjoyed reading the July-August copy of *Feminist Times*... So here I am in eastern Washington State and how did I get this newspaper? I attended Finn Fest at the Gorham campus because I had always wanted to Amtrak across the top of the US. I'm in AAUW here and have done a little to gain our equal rights, and increasingly grateful to be Norwegian and Lutheran... I learned at Finn Fest that the state church of those Nordic countries (Lutheran, of course) had an edict that youths had to be confirmed before they could marry within the church, and this, of course, caused parents to get schools set up so kids could learn to read and write and consequently "read for the minister."

I like seeing your paper and shall subscribe as I do think that what happens in the eastern U.S. eventually reaches the West.

by e-mail Judith Ree Hensle
Palouse, WA

Dear Editor,

Each day in magazines and newspapers the reports about violence against women are astonishing. For example, in a short time Afganistan women have gone from having full lives working inside and outside of the home, as professional and nonprofessionals to being confined to their houses. If they must go out they must be totally covered, so much so, that they can barely see. They are not allowed to be hospitalized because of being seen by a male doctor (female doctors are now excluded) and are totally at the mercy of the male population. In Burma, I read the other day how the military are breaking into homes after the men have gone to work and raping the women. The authorities know what is going on but just "wink." South Africa, Rwanda -- on and on it goes.

In this country each day, no matter what newspaper I read, there are one or more women who have been raped and murdered. I believe

nationally these atrocious acts happen every three minutes.

The Christian Right is constantly working its influence on the Republican-controlled House to outlaw abortion. I personally am against abortion, but I am strongly for women having a choice. It is the rigidity that I am against. The same kind of rigidity that I read about yesterday in the *New York Times* where the powerful Southern Baptist church wants women to promise submission to their husband's leadership. It is only 75 years ago that women were given the vote, and the effort continues to shut down the voice of more than half the American population.

Voted by her colleagues as one of the three most influential members of Congress, the late Bella Abzug made a compassionate speech in 1995 during the Rally for Women's Lives about the importance of women's political, economic and social equality.

"Women's struggle for equality worldwide is about more than equality between men and women. Our struggle is about reversing the trends of social,

economic, political, and ecological crisis ... our struggle is about creating sustainable lives and attainable dreams. Our struggle is about creating violence-free families, streets, and borders.

"It is unacceptable to tolerate hunger and poverty for one out of five worldwide. It is unacceptable to rape women. It is unacceptable to endure violence against women, from the streets of Algeria to the abortion clinics here, from our homes, or in Bosnia or Rwanda. It is unacceptable that over half a million women worldwide die every year from pregnancy, unsafe abortions, or in childbirth. It is unacceptable that the genitals of young girls are mutilated every day. It is unacceptable that here in the U.S., we cut Aid to Dependent Children while increasing Aid to Dependent Military Contractors."

"We have done almost everything in pairs since Noah," said Abzug, "except govern. And the world has suffered for it."

H.M. Stummer
Brooklin

Dear Editor,

Thanks so much for your efforts on behalf of women.

I have just moved to Maine from Canada and I am struck by the number of organizations devoted to issues of concern to women, especially seeking women's rights and equality. The Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Fund! Women in the Curriculum (at University of Maine), Women Unlimited and the numerous projects supported by Dragon Farm, an organization featured on the front page of the July issue. And there are probably many more that I don't know about. Although I read the daily newspaper, I don't see many references to other women's organizations.

Thank you for making me aware of these organizations and for publishing their news. It is not always easy to get on the mailing list of organizations and then to have a lot of newsletters coming every month, it gets hard to read them all.

Louise Brown
Bangor

Support to Find a Cure for Breast Cancer

(Continued from page 1.)

recalls the image of the hunter goddess Diana, was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Md. Kessler, herself, is a breast cancer survivor, and stalwart warrior on the hunt for a cure.

Closer to home, Bangor-area women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer can find emotional, physical and social support during all stages of the disease. ENCORE-plus is a national YWCA program designed exclusively to assist women with breast cancer. The local program offers ongoing support, therapeutic exercise and continuous education, which helps women enhance their well-being.

After unveiling the breast cancer stamp, the Postal Service contacted the Bangor YWCA and ENCORE-plus to honor survivors of the disease. On Aug. 13, ENCORE-plus received a large replica of the stamp in a ceremony attended by breast cancer survivors, YWCA board and staff, various media, and other interested parties.

In the time it has taken you to read this article, another woman has died of breast cancer. To show support for those women and others who will get breast cancer, on Sept. 20, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure, will be held on the Bangor waterfront to raise awareness and

money to fund the fight against this disease. The foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister Susan, who died of breast cancer at age 36. The foundation is the country's largest private funder of research exclusively dedicated to breast cancer. Besides funding research, the national Grant Program funds innovative breast cancer education, screening and treatment projects for people who are medically underserved.

Everyone, from beginning walkers to experienced runners, may join the Race for the Cure. Individual or team participants may opt to generate pledges to raise money to fight breast cancer. Although entrants may register on race day from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the race site on Front Street in Bangor, preregistration allows more time to collect pledges and to spread the word about the race. Entry forms are available at J.C. Penney stores, Ford dealerships, and Pier 1 Imports. Preregistration forms and an \$18 entry fee must be postmarked by Sept. 10. If you don't want to run or walk, just be there to cheer the racers on to victory over breast cancer.

New Drug for Postmenopausal Women

(Continued from page 1.)

be implemented by Lilly, is designed to assess Evista's ability to treat postmenopausal women with osteoporosis and prevent fractures in these women. Additionally, breast cancer incidence is one of several planned secondary endpoints in this trial.

As of May 1998, more than 7,700 women with osteoporosis were enrolled in this trial. Dr. Steven R. Cummings, professor of medicine and epidemiology, University of California-San Francisco, will present data that demonstrate that postmenopausal osteoporotic women taking Evista therapy for a median follow-up of 33 months had a 70 percent reduction in the incidence of newly diagnosed invasive breast cancers when compared with their counterparts, who are taking placebo or sugar pills. "These results for 33 months are very good news for women who are concerned about breast cancer and osteoporosis," Cummings said.

"Our trial is continuing, so we can learn how well Evista prevents breast cancer over the longer term."

The manufacturer cautioned, though, that as with most drugs, Evista therapy is associated with some side effects, the majority of which were reported as mild. A rare, but serious side effect, blood clots in the veins occurred in clinical trials at a rate similar to that reported for estrogen replacement therapy. The most commonly reported side effects in clinical trials were hot flashes and leg cramps, although most women did not find these occurrences serious enough to discontinue therapy. And, Evista should not be taken by women who are or may become pregnant, because preclinical data suggest that Evista can harm the fetus.

Melissa MacCrae is a free-lance writer who lives in Brewer.

Supporter Honored by Women's Health Center

(Continued from page 1.)

Wadsworth Women's Health Center would last a couple of years and then fall apart. It struck me as a tremendously romantic stand, but not one likely to lead to a medical clinic." However, with donated medical equipment and more and more people joining to help it became apparent it would last.

"The history of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center," Worden continued, "is a history of new people stepping forward, willing to sacrifice their time and their money for the mission. I cannot describe to you what it is like to stand here now and look out over all of you who have sacrificed so much to bring this clinic to life. Our success means much more than just a clinic; it is a dramatic demonstration that it is people that make history and it is so inspiring that it shatters the hardest cynicism."

"I believe in the mission statement of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. I believe in the three-pronged strategy of combining the delivery of medical services with education and political action. At the very heart of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center's mission statement is a core value of self-determination for all women."

"It is said in legal circles that all our basic civil liberties originate in Magna Carta. Back in 1215 in the famous meadow called Runnymede, a bunch of barons held a sword to King John's throat and forced him to sign Magna Carta -- the Great Charter. The charter limited the prerogatives of the sovereign. Over the next several centuries the Magna Carta was reissued modified and soon began to represent a universal concept of human rights that applied to all people without prejudice or fear. All you had to be was a free-born, white, Anglo-Saxon male, and you were entitled to the protections of the Great Charter."

"By 1776, the concept of human rights as exemplified by Magna Carta had expanded to the point where English colonists claimed that it protected them as well. Thus our Declaration of Independence starts with a moving paragraph about the universality

of human rights, although in a compromise, slaves would count at three-fifths of a person."

"It is from this perspective of the evolution of human rights, said to have started with Magna Carta, that I view the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center's mission statement," Worden said. "It is clear that the mission statement of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center stands squarely in the tradition of Magna Carta. The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is at the cutting edge of expanding human rights in northern Maine. And the mission statement of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is more than just an academic statement or a lot of goody-goody talk. The mission statement of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is a 'call to action' in the sense that it is inherent to the statement that the center actually deliver services to poor, powerless or otherwise excluded women. Our commitment to all women is without equivocation. In my mind there is no doubt at all that there are actually women out there -- poor, rural women -- who have received services that they would not otherwise have gotten and that are now more in control of their lives because of those services."

However, Worden continued, "I would not have spent 14 years with the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center if it had not been for the working relationships I've developed with the individual women at the center -- Ruth, Sharon, Deanna, Julie and all the other women, hard-working, dedicated women, without a shred of dogmatism, sectarianism or phony political correctness."

"To all those who support the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, I say: stay strong, for you represent what's best about America."

A lifelong political activist who has worked for social justice, peace, and economic equity, women's

issues has been part of Worden's political analysis since he was an undergraduate student at UCSB in the 1960s. He has consistently and freely offered his time and talent to support those with less access to power and influence. "The formation of MWWHC was heavily influenced by Phil's ideas of equity and the importance of organizational structure in achieving organizational goals," Barker said.

Worden has been *pro bono* counsel to Womancare/Aegis since 1982 and was recognized by the governor of Maine for his work in domestic violence. He has been a strong and vocal advocate for children, particularly in the area of child sexual abuse, and argued before the Maine Supreme Court and won the right for small children to be heard by the court in their own words. He was featured in the October 1993 PBS *Frontline* "Prisoners of Silence," challenging the effectiveness of facilitated communication. From 1985-1990 he was chair of the SAD 4 school board.

His career has included positions in the district attorney's office and instructor at University of Maine. He is currently on the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the Tremont Comprehensive Planning Committee, a director of the Friends of Acadia, a member of the Tremont Planning Board, and a member of the Bangor CUREs Project Steering Committee.

He lives in Seal Cove with his wife, Jody. They have two sons, Sam and Jesse.



Mabel Wadsworth
Women's Health Center

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Since 1984"

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PLAY ROOM FOR KIDS

What's New? Karen Savoca, That's Who

by Judith Monroe

Monday nights at Slates Restaurant in Hallowell has become a whole different scene. Like a lot of restaurants, Slates used to close on Mondays for lack of sufficient business. No more. Now it's a smaller, sometimes experimental menu with the addition of a lot of great music.

Music Review...

On June 1, singer Karen Savoca, accompanied by Pete Heitzman on guitar, presented a concert that surely must have caused the buildings on Water Street to tremble. Hers is a voice the likes of which has not been heard since Blossom Dearie and Janis Joplin. Out of a diminutive body comes an amazing energy and a sound that is impressionistically reminiscent of those singers and even, Satchmo, but more often it's original Savoca, rusty-nail sweet laced with a road-of-life poignancy. At moments there is such rhythmic power that some listeners seemed to fall into a trance. Others could barely restrain themselves from dancing. I was one of them.

Accompanying herself on bongos, Savoca belts out rhythm and blues, does country folk rock, gives off a little African resonance -- all of which she laughingly characterizes as "Agri Blues" since her lyrics are often about the land as well as the people she encounters. One of her fans, she told the audience, offered Heavy Petal, as a name for her group.

The lyrics to her songs are poetic social commentary, carefully thought out, anything but bland and never cliché. No knock-offs here. At Slates, her physical presence on the stage was closely connected to Heitzman. As they

moved in unison with the music in a kind of magnetic bob and weave, all I could think of was that they were like parentheses encompassing an energy and affection between them that the audience, although outside of it, was lucky enough to share. Often, as she sings, Savoca turns to smile up at Heitzman, and at the end of a number, they are usually facing each other. Her small delicate frame, dark hair pulled back in a bun, to his tall, rangy build and longish light hair are a striking contrast.

This is how they work so well together, she, with her voice that sometimes rasps, has a range which includes a high note that sometimes splits in a whisper to a chord (is that electronic wizardry or can she really do that?), sometimes shouts, moves from the raucous to the sweet in split seconds, he with an absolutely perfect backup that turns occasionally to solos of lovely riffs.

We've got a fine new singer in the land and I sure hope lots of people get to hear her.

About Savoca's discs: the latest, *Sunday in Nandua*, has some of the numbers I heard at Slates, and I have to say that although they evoked part of what I experienced, there is something missing here: the total explosion of energy and creative improvisation that filled the room that night. I wanted so much to carry away with me that fantastic buildup that Savoca creates at the end of several of her songs. Unfortunately you can't find that on the CD, but you still get a lot of fine music just the same.

For more information and for places Savoca will be singing, write to Alcove Music P.O. Box 335, Oneida, NY 13421.

Feminist Pioneer Dies...

(Continued from page 1.)

of New Zealand, Evdokia Uralova of the Soviet Union and Ellen Wilkinson of Britain -- in writing an "Open Letter to the Women of the World" calling on women to take a more active role in politics and government.

She was vice chairwoman and then chairwoman of the Inter-American Commission on Women from 1944 to 1949, the first regional body set up to advance the rights of women.

"Bernardino spoke up for women in the aftermath of World War II, understanding that life for women would never be the same," said Kristen Timothy, deputy director of the U.N. Division for the Advancement of Women.

Bernardino, born on May 7, 1907, at Seibo in the Dominican Republic, was the granddaughter of a provincial governor and one of seven children in a family that was unusually liberal on women's rights.

"My mother was very progressive and I was reared in an atmosphere that was, at that time, most unusual in my country," she once told *The Christian Science Monitor* in an interview. Her father also encouraged her independence.

When she was orphaned at 15, her lack of inhibitions about women working led her into a career in the civil service. Meanwhile, she was studying for a bachelor of science degree.

By 1929 she was active in the women's rights movement in the Dominican Republic, where she was a leader in Accion Feminista Dominicana, which led the fight for expanded rights in the 1942 constitution.



Mabel Wadsworth

Women's Health Center

362 Harlow Street - P.O. Box 918 - Bangor, ME 04402-0020 (207) 947-5337

Fall NEWS 1998

Ruth L. Lockhart, Executive Director

Fall Conference to focus on WOMEN & DISABILITIES

MWWHC will sponsor a day-long conference to address health issues of importance to women with disabilities on November 21, 1998 at Mason Auditorium, Eastern Maine Medical Center. With funding assistance from the Maine Women's Fund and a planning committee of community volunteers that includes women with disabilities, MWWHC will present workshops, panel discussions and keynote speakers who will focus on sexuality and reproductive health as well as other topics of interest. Sensitivity about discriminatory language and other issues that contribute to the oppression of women with disabilities will be raised. Topics will include assertiveness and self-esteem building; empowered consumerism; caregiving; vulnerability of the disabled to sexual assault; abuse and neglect; interactive technical lending library; basic women's health information; and sexuality. Women with disabilities will be volunteering their services to present many of the workshops. Free child care will be offered on site. Registration information will be available in October. Call the Center 947-5337.



MWWHC **MOVED & MERGED**

The end of 1997 was a very BUSY time for MWWHC. In October we fulfilled a 13 year wish by merging with Bangor Women's Health Care. Terry Marley-DeRosier, OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner and Teresa Kelley, Medical Assistant, closed their private practice (Bangor Women's Health Care) and joined with MWWHC. Bangor Women's Health Care clients who want to continue receiving care from Terry and Teresa have also joined MWWHC. This merger has been in the planning stages since the inception of MWWHC in 1984. Terry is one of the Center's co-founders and has always intended to join us. We will celebrate the first year of our merger this October.

In December, because our old space was much too small for all of us, MWWHC relocated to a new clinical site. Our new location, just a few doors down from the old one in InTown Plaza on Harlow Street in Bangor, is more than twice the size of the previous one. Our new address is 362 Harlow Street.

New Services Available

As a result of the merger with Terry Marley-Derosier's practice, MWWHC now offers full-time basic women's health services. These services include prenatal care, annual exams, breast exams, Pap smears, pregnancy testing, options education, abortion services, STD/HIV testing, cholesterol screening and other lab tests, birth control, menopause and lesbian health care, emergency contraception and routine women's health care.

Our next goal is to hire a part-time physician and further expand to a more comprehensive women's health service. We keep our fees as low as possible and can provide payment plans for most of our services. We are a Maine Medicaid and Medicare provider and many insurance plans cover our services. For more information, or to make an appointment, call 947-5337.



Two New Staffers



The addition of two new staff members has meant the addition of new services to MWWHC. Terry Marley-DeRosier, OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner, now provides prenatal care and a variety of other women's health services here at MWWHC. Terry's background includes emergency room nursing, work at two family planning programs and the Penobscot Indian Health Center as a Nurse Practitioner. She was a co-founder of MWWHC, and has had 13 years of private practice.

Teresa Kelley, Medical Assistant, worked for Bangor Women's Health Care for more than 14 years before coming to MWWHC. Her many responsibilities include providing prenatal and other women's health education to our clients and performing and reporting lab testing. Teresa also keeps track of insurance billing and orders clinical supplies. She is an invaluable member of our ever growing team.

Welcome Terry and Teresa!

What is the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

The purpose of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's health Center is to provide educational and clinical services in sexual and reproductive health care to women regardless of age, ability, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic status.

Our intent is to empower all women to take control of their sexual and reproductive lives through the menstrual years and beyond.

Our vision is to provide knowledge about our bodies and our sexuality; resources and clinical services offered in an environment of support and concern; a network that acknowledges our common experiences as women; a focal point for our energy in the enhancement and celebration of women's lives, a feminist organization in Maine for the enrichment of all people. Center hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday-Friday. (207)947-5337



Who is Mabel Wadsworth?

This inspiring woman is one of the co-founders of MWWHC. She was a pioneer in the central Maine area, providing education about birth control to women. Because of her spirit and dedication, Sharon Barker suggested the Center be named in her honor. She is a mentor to all women.

Challenge gives results!

Thanks to an anonymous donor who issued a challenge that ALL monies raised during the month of July 1998, would be matched. The response from the appeals letter brought the center exactly \$7646 in pledges. These pledges were matched for a total of \$15,000.

Thank You
Thank You



Captured on film together for the first time since 1984 were MWWHC co-founders, (left to right) Sharon Barker, Ruth Lockhart, Phil Worden, Terry Marley-DeRosier and Mabel Wadsworth.

MWWHC's 4th annual award dinner was a great success. This year's event's honored guest was Phil Worden. Phil was presented with the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the improvement of women's health and lives in Maine. A co-founder of the Center, Phil, who is an attorney, has volunteered countless hours of legal expertise to the Center. Thank You, Phil!

The 1998 Woman Power awards were presented to Betsy and Leesa. This award acknowledges the untiring commitment of special volunteers who work within the clinical services. Both Betsy and Leesa have been with us since 1994 and have given generously of their time and energy whenever we have needed them. Thank you Betsy and Leesa.



PICKETERS

Since 1994 our Pledge-a-Picket program has raised \$5600 for MWWHC. Here's how it works:

- You pledge an amount of money for
 - (a) every time anti-choice picketers are at MWWHC or
 - (b) each anti-choice picketer who shows up, or
 - (c) design your own pledge.
- You may also 'adopt' a specific picketer, pledging a contribution each time a specific person is picketing. You will be billed monthly.

Call the Center to pledge.



MWWHC receives MLGPA Great Pioneer Award

MWWHC was recognized for its ongoing work and support for the Maine lesbian community at the annual meeting of the Maine Gay/Lesbian Political Alliance. MWWHC was presented its "Great Pioneer Award" for our dedication to justice and equality for Maine's Lesbian and Gay citizens. MWWHC's courage, service and integrity were cited at the annual award banquet held at the Augusta Civic Center.

Jean Symonds, MWWHC board president and Ruth Lockhart, executive Director were on hand to receive the award.

Lesbian Health Project Update



The MWWHC Lesbian Health Project has been very busy with a variety of events and projects. Ongoing is the Lesbian Support Group which meets on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Any woman who self-identifies as lesbian is invited to attend.

For more information call the center.

MWWHC also provides monthly women's health clinics specifically for lesbians. Receive high quality care including Pap smears, breast exams and other basic gynecological care in a woman friendly, lesbian-sensitive atmosphere. Basic services are provided at no cost to the client, although there may be some charges for off-site lab work, and donations are always gladly accepted. These services are available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call the Center for more information.

Three grants have been awarded to the LHP in 1997-98. The first, from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (Maine Race for the Cure), funded a brochure to promote breast health among lesbians. That brochure is now available at the Center. The second grant award was from the Maine Equity Fund through the Maine Community Foundation to survey health care providers in northern and eastern Maine about knowledge and attitudes about lesbian health care. A referral list of lesbian friendly providers in rural areas has been developed and educational needs for those providers has been assessed. A third grant from the same organization allows us to followup by developing training and educational materials for health care providers, including a video. Brochures addressing STDs and smoking cessation specifically for lesbians will also be produced.

Anyone interested in helping with the Lesbian Health Project should contact the Center. There is a lot of work to do, and the LHP thrives primarily on volunteer power.

Plant Sale

The 1998 plant sale was a success, largely due to the tireless efforts of Sheri Cousins, Jan Ludwig, Barbara Bowler, and Carolyn Gontoski. Many thanks to all who helped.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 1999 plant sale. **Ways** you can help the MWWHC Plant Sale:

- ✿ Remember MWWHC & buy extra bulbs or root stock for spring planting.
- ✿ Grow plants this winter and donate them to the sale in the spring.
- ✿ Join the PLANT SALE COMMITTEE.
- ✿ Donate gardening books or gloves, tools, pots, etc for sale at the plant sale.
- ✿ As you are cleaning up & dividing garden stock, set some aside for MWWHC.
- ✿ Donate seedlings in the spring.
- ✿ Volunteer to help at the sale.
- ✿ Bring all your friends to the Plant Sale.
- ✿ To help call Sheri Cousins at (207)379-3665

YES

I want to support the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

I want my donation to go toward _____

Please send me information about Pledge-A-Picket _____ Volunteering _____ Board Member _____ Other _____

Please send me _____ pair of silver _____ gold earrings @ \$6.00 each, _____ silver pendants _____ gold pendants @ \$6.00 each
Enclosed is my check to cover jewelry and extra dollars for postage.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Send to MWWHC, PO Box 918, Bangor, Maine 04402-0020

CUREs NEWS

The CUREs Project (Communities United for Reproductive Safety) has received funding from two new sources. The Libra Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to the project and the Haymarket People's Fund funded a \$3500 grant proposal. Both grants were to continue the work of the project: to create an atmosphere of safety and civility for reproductive health care providers and the women who seek their services.

The CUREs Project has continued its success throughout the year. As an indication of a safer climate, CUREs celebrated with Bangor residents a decrease in abortion debate-related violence from an average of 31 incidents annually to only...eight! If you are interested in being part of this exciting, innovative and unique project, call 945-4024.

Deanna Partridge, CUREs Project Coordinator, was also awarded three second place prizes by the Maine Media Women in the following categories: (1) Public Relations/Community Relations/Public Service, (2) Writing, Printed Opinion/Op-Ed Article, and (3) Audiovisual, Original Film/Video tape. The material Deanna submitted was based on her work with the CUREs Project.

MWWHC & Reproductive Rights in Maine

Ruth Lockhart, Executive Director & Sharon Barker, attended a press conference in Portland held by the Maine Choice Coalition. The purpose of the event was to announce that pro-choice advocates will work against the late-term abortion procedure ban initiative that is being mounted in Maine. MWWHC's stance is that reproductive freedom for women, including the right to make ALL decisions about her body and reproductive life, belongs to the woman herself. We join together to protect that freedom. Want to help? Call the Center and ask for Ruth.

Emergency Contraceptive Pills Available

If you have had unprotected sex and can call MWWHC within 72 hours, we will help you assess your situation and decide whether to use this safe, effective hormonal treatment. 947-5337



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MWWHC offers massage services and prepared childbirth

On Fridays, chris of coventree, a healing response therapist, provides services by appointment. Call the Center for more information about making an appointment with chris at the center and other locations. "Your Birth Connection" is a comprehensive perinatal service offering a variety of education and support services for the child-bearing year. Evelyn Conrad teaches these childbirth classes and can be reached at (207)945-9804 for a schedule of classes or other information.

Thanks

to staff:

Marie Ames(administrative office assistant)•
Glenda Davis(bookkeeper)•Teresa Kelley(medical assistant)•Julie Kratz(administrative clinical assistant)
Ruth Lockhart(executivedirector)•Terry Marley-DeRosier (nurse practitioner)•Darlene Nicholson(custodian)
• Deanna Partridge(Bangor CUREs project coordinator)

to board members leaving:

Sandy Butler•Jenny Camp•Marlene Charron•
Sandra Johnson•Barbara Joy•Ann Pilcher•
Kathy Walker•

to continuing members & officers:

Jean Symonds(president)•Madonna Flanders (president elect)•MazieHough(secretary)•Martha Wildman(treasurer)•Dianna Christakos•Lin Gould•Anne Johnson•Rebecca Rosen•

to volunteers:

Amy•Betsy•Leesa•Karen•Dawn•Suzanne B. •
Phoenicia•Robin•Lynn•Judy•Emily•Evelyn•
Suzanne D. •Kim•Carissa•Heather•Lysse•



Welcome

to new board members:

Andrea Blunt•Phyllis Brazee•Diane Haslett•
Roberta Laverty•Miki McDonald
•Lynn Soucy•

to new intern:

Missy Doyle, University of Maine student working on her bachelor's degree in social work, will be joining the CUREs project for a year-long internship. We look forward to working with her. Welcome to the Center, Missy!

MWWHC Jewelry



The MWWHC *iris* as designed by Brenda V. Barker has been made into earrings and a pendant. The finish is either silver or gold. Earrings or pendant sell for \$6.00 with all the money benefiting MWWHC. The ear wires are hypoallergenic. The pendant is on a black cord.

Show your support of MWWHC and wear the IRIS!



Ethical Investing

by Fritz Weidner

Some companies do care

A recent e-mail asked, "When I think of ethical investing, I think of avoiding tobacco companies, arms dealers, GE, and the like. But, buying stock -- in any company, however ethical -- makes one a stockholder. 'Protecting stockholder value' is one of the prime reasons given by management for refusal to grant labor demands (e.g., higher wages, job security) in labor management negotiations. How does one invest in stock without becoming a bludgeon in the hands of management to crush labor-based dissent? How can one invest without automatically putting oneself in opposition to labor interests (few would call such opposition 'ethical')? In short, how does one establish stock-based income without becoming a tool of, or a part of, 'the establishment'?"

This is one of the best questions I have received. The professional SRI (socially responsible investing) community struggles, debates and wrestles with issues like this.

The basic issues are:

1. Many companies, especially smaller ones that are focused on a specific business, have substantial numbers of employees who are shareholders themselves through stock option plans and other means. A number of business experts believe that this is a win-win situation and logically it can be.

2. SR evaluations of possible stocks to buy include a number of factors. Among the foremost things to evaluate the ethics of firms are (a) labor relations (b) community relations (c) environment (d) executive compensation and, of course (e) whether the product or service is helpful (or not) to humankind, and so forth.

3. Most of the examples I know where management states that "protecting shareholder value" is their goal and management, therefore, refuses to grant "demands" from workers, those managers are in firms that have other aspects of the company that are not ethical in the first place (with some exceptions).

4. Labor "relations" are harder to assess when companies have third-world workers. For example, Safeskin corporation that makes surgical latex gloves for medicine, technology, etc., has two plants in Southeast Asia. The Malaysian one has union employees, but Thailand does not. All evidence to date suggests that Safeskin pays above the prevailing country wage, provides employee benefits, has no employees under 18 years of age, and behaves ethically toward its workers. Some of us in this business spend a lot of time on the Internet "listening" to third-world labor groups and activists to make sure we get no bad news (better yet, some good news) on these kinds of firms which have been shown to be ethical in most all of the other criteria.

5. For smaller specific firms: for example, Steinway Musical Instruments (piano, etc.), labor relations are very clear and transparent. They have less than 2,000 employees. Many of them are second- and third-generation employees and the average worker has been with them for 15 years. Rank-and-file workers belong to effective unions. A German division has a "workers council." There was a 10-day strike at one plant some years ago, but it was resolved to the satisfaction of labor and management as I understand it.

As you can see, the basic issues can be fairly well covered. But there are knottier Issues:

1. There can be contradictory conduct within the same firm, especially when a merger occurs. Church and Dwight which makes Arm & Hammer baking soda and related products, has good union relations at its facilities, at least it did for generations until it acquired a Midwest firm. Upon acquisition it was accused by the local workers as trying to crush the union of this very small firm. The charges and countercharges (some years ago) look like they can not be resolved with publicly available information.

2. The same company can be extremely socially responsible on one important issue but not so clear on another. Again, Church and Dwight is one of the most environmentally friendly of personal-care products companies. They provide bicarbonate based solvents for industrial use that replace petroleum based ones. They have supported environmental issues since their founding, before the U.S. Civil War. But as readers here know, they have one woman in the hierarchy of management (She is a research physician).

3. You can identify companies that "have it all" as far as most of the mainstream ethical issues, but the companies are not appearing to grow much. And if they are not growing profits, the likelihood of their being a good financial investment for shareholders becomes a concern. For example, Lincoln Electric which makes welders among other things, has an Incentive Management System with an elected advisory board for direct and open communication with senior management since 1914, has a piecework incentive rewards for all production work, a profit-sharing bonus plan for employees paid annually at the discretion of the board of directors since 1934, guarantees employment after three years of service, has had no layoffs of an employee since 1948, and has a liberal 401k plan, as well as good salaries and other benefits.

Lincoln Electric does everything it can to minimize environmental problems; it cares about workers. But it is growing sales at about 6 percent a year. Great company with excellent prospects as a company. But as an investment? The only way I could satisfy clients who need to really profit from their investments which I manage, would be to buy this firm when it is out of favor (Merrill Lynch lowered its recommendation of the stock on Sept. 11, 1998) and sell it when it is in favor again.

The good news in all this? Some companies do care and some professionals are devoted to finding firms that are win-win (shareholders, companies and workers). But you do have to dig a little bit.

Fritz Weidner is registered in Maine and provides ethical investment management worldwide from Vassalboro. Some of his past columns in Feminist Times can be found on <http://www.weidnerinvest.com/articles>.

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Over the Net...

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog in a pond.

The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my mom and you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel happy doing so."

That night, while the princess dined on frog legs, she kept laughing and saying, "I don't think so."

The Facts...

Dispelling myths about abortion and reproductive choice

The following statistics were gleaned from the Fall 1998 issue of *Maine Interfaith Council for Reproductive Choices* newsletter. They were provided by the Maine Bureau of Health, Department of Human Services.

MYTHS and FACTS:

Maine has an unacceptably high abortion rate which continues to rise.

Maine has experienced a 47 percent decline in abortions between 1987-1997 and has one of the lowest abortion rates in the United States.

Maine is an "abortion on demand" state where terminations are performed throughout all stages of pregnancy.

There are existing restrictions in Maine law which limit access to abortion.

Post-viability, late-term abortions are regularly performed in Maine.

The vast majority of abortions in Maine are performed early in pregnancy.

The mission of the MICRC, according to its newsletter, is to educate congregations and the larger community about the morality of reproductive choices; to affirm women in making reproductive decisions; and to promote public policy that guarantees reproductive freedom.

For a copy of the newsletter, write to Maine Interfaith Council for Reproductive Choices, P.O. Box 127, Augusta, ME 04332.

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Economic Lessons in Haiti

by Victoria Szatkowski

I went to Haiti last August and this past March as a member of a Witness for Peace delegation. WFP is an organization dedicated to witnessing what happens in other countries, particularly countries from which it is hard to get accurate firsthand information. The delegation heard from Haitians from all walks of life and all parts of Haiti who believe that if white people come to their country, they must have money to give away.

One of the most powerful things I learned in Haiti is that Haitians do not want the kind of help I thought they needed. I was all set to start a fair trade coffee cooperative that would bring money and work to Haitians already producing coffee at a fair price and in a democratic manner. This was not the worst idea but it was my idea, not one which had come from Haitians. Over and over again, from the peasants in the mountains to Haitian bureaucrats at USAID, Haitians were very clear about what they wanted from the United States and it was not more money or surplus food. Haitians want and need to be self-sufficient. Haitian's first priority, consistently, was education and technical support. They want to be self-sustaining and to work on their own problems with their own resources in their own way; what a radical concept!

This is not the message we usually hear in the United States, that a country wants to be left alone as much as possible and that the "help" which has been given, with some honorable and some bad intentions, is actually detrimental to its progress.

For instance, "Miami" rice. Miami rice is surplus rice from the United States, not from Miami in particular. Miami is a quick way to say United States and is the closest U.S. city to Haiti and often the first U.S. place Haitians go. Miami rice is grown in the United States by farmers who receive, on average, \$29,000 in subsidies to grow this rice which is then shipped to Haiti and sold at a much lower price than the local rice or given away outright through CARE or some other non-governmental organization (NGO). But people are starving, I hear you say. Who are these starving folks? Some of them are Haitian rice farmers who gave up growing rice because they could not compete with the flood of Miami rice in the market.

Haiti was self-sufficient 30 years ago. One of the few positive things Papa Doc did was to keep foreign

food staples out of Haiti, protecting the farmers and preserving agrarian life. His son, Baby Doc, was an addict of U.S. money and let all sorts of food and money aid into the country, enriching himself and his friends. The good intentions, in the beginning, of helping starving Haitians has actually created more starving Haitians.

How did I learn this lesson in economics? I went to La Saline Marche, a very large marketplace in one of the largest slums in Port au Prince and listened to the women selling rice there. I listened to peasants who can no longer make a living growing food for sale. I listened to students who were frustrated with the type of education they were receiving. I listened to some of the most educated, informed and articulate people I have ever met. They know what their problems are, how to work on solving them and how the policies of the U.S. affect them. They are the experts on their situation, not some official from a governmental agency who never goes out to the countryside.

A Chinese proverb reads: "To listen well is as powerful a means of influence as to talk well, and is as essential to all true conversation." Listening shows respect and solidarity with those we hope to understand.

I am reminded of this Zen koan: "One day Chao-Chao fell down in the snow, and called out, 'Help me up! Help me up!' A monk came by and lay down beside him. Chao-Chao got up and went away."

After returning from Haiti last August, after an amazing and transforming experience, I wanted to write about the terrible injustice there. After all, one of the problems must be that the situation in Haiti is so under-reported. If people knew what was happening, how our governmental policies affect Haitians, then surely action towards justice would be swift.

But there is good, thoughtful writing on Haiti by Allen Nairn and Amy Wilentz in *The Nation* and James Ridgeway in *The Village Voice* and others in *Z Magazine*. To what effect? It is like a grain of sand thrown into the ocean.

On April 7 *Pacific Radio News* reported on a women's clinic in Port au Prince which was raided and destroyed by Haitian police looking for guns. One of the women who worked at the clinic said that the real reason the clinic was targeted, as of course there were no guns there, was that they were not just dispensing medicine for the body's health, but also deeper aid for women's minds and spirits. This empowerment was too threatening to the male authority system and seen as

socialistic, which as everyone knows is a threat to capitalism everywhere! This story was not reported in the mainstream press.

In March, the WFP delegation visited Movement Social, Cultural and Economic of Ma Wouj (MOSCEM), a group in the northwest town of Ma Wouj, attending meetings and listening to peasants, town and governmental officials, leaders of cooperatives and just plain folks. They were offended at their home being referred to as "The Far West" by NGOs such as CARE and USAID, as if it is tragically isolated and devastated and in need of aid.

In response to this myth, \$100 million dollars a year comes to Haiti through the auspices of USAID, funding CARE and other organizations. Who benefits from this aid? Where was evidence of the work of these NGOs? We drove over some of the worst roads imaginable, roads which were built and rebuilt with aid. Webster Pierre, a Haitian economist and an advisor to President Aristide and President Préval, said that by his analysis, only 20 percent of any aid funds actually make it to a project site -- the rest is siphoned off along the gravy train funding NGOs and the people who run them. CARE has had a "Food for Work" program for years, taking people off their own land during planting and harvest times so that "public works" projects can be completed, such as the roads we were traveling on.

Technical and Educational Organization of St. Michel de L'Atalaye (TEOSMA), a town in the central mountains of Haiti and MOSCEM are working hard to bring cooperatives together for more economic and political strength. Lambi Fund is a Haitian developmental organization which supports progressive, sustainable growth with education and financial support for Haitian groups and cooperatives working in their own communities. FONKOZE is a banking institution for the poor, very similar to the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. For the first time, Haitians are able to secure loans for their projects at reasonable rates, rather than the common 30 percent per month that moneylenders charge. Almost all Haitians are indebted and under crippling credit to these money lenders because they have no access to a bank. FONKOZE is changing this.

Haiti needs to be allowed to grow without the imperialism of the United States grinding them into dust.

Victoria Szatkowski is a member of the Witness for Peace delegation. She lives in Portland.

New Name, Focus, Office

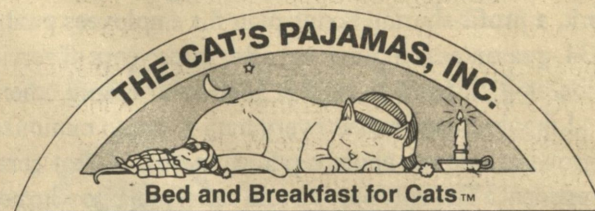
NORTH WINDHAM -- Lou Bauer, a self-employed certified public accountant, is expanding her service that focuses on money counseling and financial education to include a wider spectrum of offerings at her new office on Middle Jam Road and has changed the business name to The Balancing Act.

In addition to financial and tax planning assistance, Bauer will offer, for example, individual money counseling sessions, workshops and seminars on recordkeeping and tax information for small businesses and will custom-design a program for sponsoring organizations for a unique group of participants.

Bauer offers comprehensive training in personal money management for all age groups and socioeconomic situations. She works directly with couples on troublesome money issues. Other areas might be dealing consciously with inheritances, finding an acceptable property settlement in divorce, healing compulsive spending, or helping clients to recognize what is "enough" and to make adjustments to live within a budget.

In November, Bauer will lead the "Work, Time, Money -- How Much is Enough?" workshop at the annual conference of the Organization Development Network in New Orleans.

Bauer can be contacted by phone (892-6652), by fax (892-4943) or e-mail (Lu_Bauer@compuserve.com for further information.



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September - October 1998

FEMINIST TIMES

Network

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

■ **One Last Try To Limit The Power of Money to Buy Elections**

To the utter astonishment of political pundits, campaign finance reform is still alive and kicking. Against all odds, the House of Representatives passed campaign finance reform legislation opposed by the entire Republican leadership.

Now, those who oppose stricter limits on private campaign contributions are counting on Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott to ensure that the Senate never votes on the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill. Senate rules allow Senator Lott to prevent a vote unless 60 Senators vote to force one. But a majority of the Senate wants to stop Lott -- fifty-two Senators have already announced they will support the legislation if it is ever brought to the floor for a vote.

The primary backers of the legislation -- Senators McCain and Feingold -- have vowed to hold up Senate consideration of appropriations bills needed to keep the government running unless a vote is scheduled on campaign finance reform. They are betting that Senators facing re-election in early November will not want to go home and be forced to accept blame for shutting down the government.

The McCain-Feingold bill bans unlimited and unregulated contributions -- also known as "soft money" contributions -- to political parties by corporations, unions and wealthy individuals. During the 1996 election more than \$260 million in soft money contributions flooded the political process. The bill would also regulate phony "issue ads." These ads are currently unregulated even though they are typically designed to elect or defeat political candidates.

■ **Two Canadian Cities are moving toward Clean Clothes resolutions:**

On May 25, the city council of St. John's, New Foundland, at the urging of the local labor council, adopted a motion that clothes for sale in their community "should be manufactured in accordance with international codes of conduct ... as embodied in the United Nations and International Labor Organization conventions." A similar resolution is being proposed in Victoria, British Columbia.

Healthy Families & Nurturing Families
of Knox County
Bok Medical Arts Building
22 White St.
Rockland, ME 04841

Offers a free series of classes for families to promote responsibility and establish healthy relationships. Helps parents with the changes that come with the birth of a child. 7/98

World Federalist Association -- Maine Chapter
PO Box 397
Waldoboro, ME 04572
832-6863

WFA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to ensure peace, economic progress, environmental protection and human rights through world law and global structures such as a strengthened United Nations. 10/97

Maine NOW (National Organization for Women)
PO Box 4012
Portland, ME 04101
797-8508

The largest feminist grassroots organization in Maine. Active in securing increased women's rights: reproductive freedom, lesbian/gay rights, ERA, economic justice and eliminating racism. Local chapters in Bangor, Brunswick, Farmington, Kennebec Valley and Portland. 7/98

MAINE CENTERS FOR WOMEN,
WORK AND COMMUNITY
46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9410
621-3430

MCWWC provides statewide community based entrepreneurship training and workforce development services to displaced homemakers, single parents and other workers in transition. 10/97

Maine Tradeswomen Network
P.O. Box 10813
Portland, ME 04104
797-4801

A bond of tradeswomen finding strength, education and support from each other. Our goal is to share our knowledge and encourage other women to enter the non-traditional work force. 6/98

Labor Party
PO Box 1812
Portland, ME 04104
780-1247
<http://www.portlandpages.com/laborparty>

Fighting for a living wage for the work that you do! The Labor party is a political party that exists to build a powerful movement around a new agenda for working-class people. 2/98

Amnesty International
AIUSA Group 169
PO Box 203
Bath, ME 04530
832-6863

An independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair & prompt trials for political prisoners, and an end to torture and executions.

LET CUBA LIVE
PO Box 245
Brunswick, ME 04011
725-1330

We work to normalize US relations with Cuba, by direct action, education and legislative efforts. We also promote discussion of the accomplishments and problems of the Cuban Revolution. 7/97

Workshops, lectures, classes, etc.

Oct 6: Amnesty International, 6:30, new group forming in Gardiner, Public Library.

Oct 10: The Maine Civil Rights March & Rally, Bangor; 877.248.4511.

University of New England-Westbrook College Campus, Portland (all events are free and open to the public): *Sheltering the Spirit, Caring for the Soul*, 1998-99 Programming & Exhibits, sponsored by Maine Women Writers Collection: **through Oct 16:** *Shaker Life* in photographs, Josephine S. Abplanalp Library; **through Jan 15:** Simple Gifts and Inner Light: The Shakers, J.S.A. Library; **Oct 28:** lecture, Linda Tatelbaum, 7 pm, Sarton Room; **Nov. 9:** lecture, Theresa Flanagan Mahns, 7 pm, Sarton Room; **Feb 15-June 15:** Graceful Aging: May Sarton's Journals; **March 8:** lecture, Ellen LaConte, 7 pm, Sarton Room.

Oct. 17: Workshop for the Hesitant Teacher. 9 am-3:30 pm. Samoset Resort. Rockport. Presented by the Maine Alliance for Arts Education and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts: two workshop designed for teachers to motivate students. FMI 338-1225.

Oct 24: United Nations Day, 9-5, Portland Arts & Technology High School, 196 Allen Av., Portland; FMI 874-8160.

Nov. 7 & Dec. 5: Lesbian Health Clinic, 9-noon, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 362 Harlow St., Bangor; 947.5337.

Nov. 7: **Money Empowerment Workshop for Couples.** 9am - 1pm. Windham. FMI Call Lu Bauer, CPA. 892-6652.

Money Support Circles: Monthly meetings on Wednesday nights, 6 to 8 pm at the Balancing Act in Windham.

Oct. 28: Couples and Money

Dec. 2: Creating Financially Sane Holidays.

Dec. 30: Surviving and Solving Credit Mistakes.

Jan. 27: Get it Together for your Taxes.

Hope From the Front Lines

Esmeralda Miranda Rivera, president of Communities and Repopulations of Chalatenango, El Salvador, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 120 Park St., Bangor, tells stories of resistance to global economic violence.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, Rivera brings her message, "Organizing Rural Women in El Salvador: Successes and Challenges," to the Women in the Curriculum Lunch Series in the Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, at the University of Maine from 12:15-1:30.

"It is an injustice and an outrage that women who are the most likely to argue for peace, are also the ones most severely punished in conflicts usually created by men."

-- Kofi Annan
Secretary General, U.N.

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In Other Words...

A Night Out With The Invincible Molly Ivins

by Lorraine Brown

Let me admit right up front that, by resolute choice, I don't get out much. Last time I seriously considered attending a really big event it was a Rod Stewart concert. Then I thought about his hair and bagged the idea. But on June 27 I had the opportunity to hear Molly Ivins speak at a fund-raising event for HOME Co-op at the University of Maine.

For those of you who are not yet acquainted with her, Molly Ivins is a journalist who writes for the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*. She is also the author of three books, and her syndicated column can occasionally be enjoyed in the *Bangor Daily News*.

Fact is, Ivins is one of my heroes, so I'm glad to report that the place was close to sold-out. The audience was made up of lefties and activists of every stripe, people of every color and persuasion: students, senior residents, farmers, artists, educators, homemakers, kids, babies, blue-collar workers, lesbians, gays, union and community organizers. There were nose rings and belly rings and elaborately scruffy outfits, complicated hairdo's, baldies, Birkenstocks, polyester pants and silk shawls. There were dashikis and overalls, construction boots and high heels, baggy trousers, tight jeans and low, sexy blouses, T-shirts and flowing skirts. Very seldom do I feel that I am amongst those of my 'tribe'; in fact, most of the time I feel distinctly odd, a stranger on a strange planet. But sitting in the third row, amidst as diverse a crowd as Maine has to offer, I felt exhilarated, validated, stirred. So did the rest of the audience if applause, rueful chuckles, deep laughter and standing ovations are indicators. In place of my usual gloomy ruminations on the idiocy of relinquishing a cushy yet truly meaningless career in advertising and the impossibility of 'making a difference,' I felt challenged to conjure up a few creative organizing tactics and strategies, to stir up a little constructive trouble.

But, far better to hear from Ivins, than about her.

On Politics:

"Write about the Clinton years," they said. "Find themes," they said. "So I suggested we call the book *Nausea*, but they said it wouldn't sell."

"The trouble with re-electing Newt is that we'll have to listen to him for another two years. Newt suffers from what the shrinks call projection -- he's always accusing other people of what he does himself."

On Welfare Reform:

"How the American Right managed to convince itself that the programs to alleviate poverty are responsible for the consequences of poverty will someday be studied as a notorious mass delusion. In the meantime, real children -- kids who get earaches and like Big Bird and are crabby when they aren't fed and whose eyes widen in wonder when they meet Santa Claus -- will pay the price for this pernicious folly."



"Long before AFDC, everyone from Charles Dickens to Jacob Riis agreed on three things about poverty: Slums breed rats, slums breed roaches and slums breed crime. California, our largest state, is almost at a point where it is spending more on prisons than it does on higher education -- a fair working definition of a dead civilization. We already have the highest incarceration rate of any nation on earth -- and all of it is wasted money on wasted lives."

"The way this society works is really simple: The shit flows downhill, and the people at the bottom are drowning in it. Every little change that makes it harder for them to climb up means that millions more of them drown. And most of them are children."

On Fundamentalism:

"One of the problems we have as a society in dealing with fundamentalists is that the larger society values tolerance but fundamentalists don't. We're prepared to tolerate them and their behavior, and they're not prepared to return the favor."

On Death and Culture:

"We have a hard time accepting tragedy in this country. We're on a steady diet of movies and TV shows with happy endings, with only an occasional night of Shakespeare, O'Neill, or some gloomy Scandinavian to remind us that life is not a Hallmark card. The denial of death is such an intrinsic part of our culture that sometimes the only people who seem like

grown-ups are those in, as they say, 'the AIDS community.'"

On Racism and Family Values:

"Most of the racism you see is misdirected anger, from your basic Ku Klux Kluckers (who think black folks are somehow responsible for the way the world is run) to the folks who have decided that illegal immigrants are responsible for the decline of civilization (not to mention the American economy) to those Einsteins who have analyzed our problems and determined that teenage welfare mothers are behind the collapse of 'values.' The trouble with blaming powerless people is that, although it's not nearly as scary as blaming the powerful, it does miss the point."

On Journalism:

"Just a few facts about the concentration of ownership of media in this country: Although the country had long known newspaper barons like Hearst and Scripps, at the end of World War II the great majority of media outlets were still independently owned. By 1982 50 corporations controlled almost all of the major media outlets in the United States: 1,787 newspapers, 11,000 magazines, 9,000 radio stations, 1,000 TV stations, 2,500 book publishers, and seven major movie studios.

Five years later, that was down to 29 corporations. Today it is fewer than 20. And the impetus toward concentration continues; in fact, it is accelerating, and it includes the new media outlets such as cable and on-line ventures."

"I still believe that the purpose of journalism is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. I can think of very few causes more important than keeping free voices alive in a world of corporate media."

With Maine's *Feminist Times* going out of business as of this issue, those last few statistics and comments seem grievously close to home. And that's the thing about Ivins. You can pick up any one of her books and find in her writing from the '70s, the '80s and on into the '90s, bracing intelligence, inspiration, serious humor and immediate relevance. So, in spite of the odd setback here or there, take good heart. Don't even entertain the idea of permanently caving in to the relatively easy paths of disillusionment or cynicism. As her fans will attest, Molly Ivins out loud and afloat, is a continuous reminder that we have something grand and glorious to celebrate.

Lorraine Brown is a free-lance writer and performer. She lives in Belfast.

"I still believe that the purpose of journalism is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. I can think of very few causes more important than keeping free voices alive in a world of corporate media."

-- Molly Ivins

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"Nothing was accomplished by destroying the Berlin Wall in the name of Liberty if we are to rebuild it in our consciousness in the name of 'realism'."

-- Salima Ghezali
Algeria